aggregate percentage of four-lanes, six-lanes and eight-lanes National Highways to the total length of National Highways are about 9 per cent, and 0.07 per cent respectively.

New policy for ports

2341. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the new policy for major ports;

(b) whether the new port policy strives to promote both inter-port and intra-port competition to provide users with a choice not only between different major ports but also between different operators in the same port;

(c) if so, by what time the new policy is likely to be announced; and

(d) to what extent this policy would be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A comprehensive policy for the Maritime Sector which includes Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport is under finalization.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No specific time-frame has been laid down for announcement of the policy.

(d) For the first time, a comprehensive policy for the maritime sector is being formulated. The policy seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of our maritime assets like ports, shipping, inland water transport systems and ship building and ship repair industries. The policy will facilitate holistic development of the maritime sector.